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Pompeys Pillar Historical Association Receives BLM Award

Bureau of Land Management Director Kathleen Clarke presented her “Four Cs” award to the Pompeys Pillar Historical Association last week at Pompeys Pillar National Monument.

The award recognizes those whose actions exemplify in some extraordinary fashion the Department of the Interior’s Four Cs philosophy of consultation, cooperation, and communication, in the service of conservation.

The historical association was instrumental in bringing Pompeys Pillar into public ownership in 1991 and assists the BLM in the operation and maintenance of the site, which became a national monument in 2001. Volunteers organized by the pillar association help staff the visitor center, provide interpretive and education programs, and generate funding through grants and fundraising efforts. Since 1992, volunteers at the Pillar have contributed over 72,000 hours of service valued at well over one million dollars.

Marty Ott, state director for Montana/Dakotas BLM, told the members of the association, “All of the past recipients of the Four Cs award have been deserving, but few can say their efforts have resulted in the BLM becoming, first: the owner of such an important historic site, and second: the manager of a national monument. What an achievement!!”

Susan Barrow, treasurer of the association, accepted the award, and several members of the association’s board of directors recounted highlights of their work on behalf of the Pillar.

The association was also instrumental in obtaining two congressional appropriations, totaling \$4.9 million, for the construction of an interpretive center at Pompeys Pillar. The center is scheduled to be open in time for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial signature event at the Pillar in July 2006.

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